Editorial Comment

J.C. Ganz

Department of Neurosurgery, Karl-Franzens-University, Graz, Austria

These proceedings are from the 8th International Gamma Knife Society meeting. The society has indeed come a long way over the years.

There are a number of interesting papers on matters of general interest including the optimization of GammaPlan. Also approaches to protect the visual pathways are discussed and the role of apoptosis is outlined. Newer complications are described following the treatment of arteriovenous malformations (AVMs).

It is very welcome that the pituitary adenoma is again a major source of interest. This tumor is a great challenge for Gamma Knife users. These newer papers clearly document what is achievable. The pituitary adenoma remains a worthwhile indication provided the treatment is undertaken with a clear view of the difficulties involved. There is also a growth in interest for the use of the Gamma Knife for malignant disease. Although this is somewhat controversial, there is no denying the successes that may be achieved in prophylaxis. Meningiomas and acoustic schwannomas also receive their due attention. The first paper on glomus tumors and the Gamma Knife is included. However, this issue has proportionally far more papers on functional topics than ever before. This is indeed a sign of advance. The fields covered are epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and trigeminal neuralgia. This is a very pleasant development. It must be a wish for all those involved in the treatment of functional diseases that as far as possible invasive solutions should be avoided. The results in this section are most promising and bode well for the future.

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Hon. Professor Jeremy C. Ganz, MA, PhD, FRCS
Department of Neurosurgery, Karl-Franzens-University
Auenbruggerplatz 29, A-8036 Graz (Austria)
Tel. +43 316 385 2708, Fax +43 316 385 3368
E-Mail jcganz@btinternet.com